



ROBUST

Unlocking Rural-Urban Synergies

School meals: Gloucestershire Living Lab

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School food procurement in Glos now

- GCC has contracted out its school food catering service to a commercial company - Caterlink (held contract since '14)
- Caterlink buys food, employs and trains 500 cooks in Glos
- Good system, currently Food For Life 'Silver' award for local sourcing, food quality, links with school community
<https://www.foodforlife.org.uk/>
- About 18,500 meals a day are supplied to nearly 190 primary schools who are opted in to the GCC-facilitated service (c. 80%)
- Just over 100 production kitchens; 80+ schools without
- Meal budget is around £2.30 per head
- New contract will be issued in July 2021

Recent 'Dynamic Procurement System' developments

- UK Treasury policy to ensure public procurement supports SMEs.
- In the past, smaller and local producers have found it challenging to enter pp contracts, usually awarded in 'lots' (*cf. Lisb/Ljub experience?*)
- DPS (originated in retail) consolidates all available supplies from qualified farmers and presents these to buyers.
- Supplies (and prices) may change daily (hence dynamic) meaning no lots - a greater range of pre-qualified producers can dip in and out.
- Eases need to balance hard choices. You buy what's shown.
- Fresh Range (Keynsham piloted with BANES - 60 schools/20 producers); CCS leading DPS pilot in SW in 2021: 300-400 suppliers aimed for.
- ROBUST - business case for DPS inclusion in 2021 + pilot for meat/veg.

Anchor institutes?

- Sticky capital
- Large employer
- Large land/asset owner
- Spending power

Culminating in the ability to positively influence the social, economic and environmental conditions in an area.

- UK case study Preston Borough Council/ CLES
<https://cles.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Anchor-institutions.pdf>



Images: Royal Gloucestershire Hospital FB page;
Shire Hall artuk.org

Summary

Positives	Reflections
 Caterlink service already very good – it works well, Food for Life, relationships.	Some local producers are hooked in but relies on key local suppliers.
SME support is a major political driver from central to local govt.	Complex to break into other public sectors, all have particular needs.
High demand – c.18,000 meals a day across c.190 schools (rural, urban, large and small).	Must be reliable – experimenting is risky ; safeguarding (food tolerance) is vital; academisation.
Contract term more or less parallel with regional DPS pilot.	GCC can only control school food and has a sub-regional mandate.
ROBUST provides some resource to support progress.	Time-limited project – legacy in the Glos Food Strat? Work with Monmouth?
 Anchor institutes hold a lot of potential to support local economic development and well-being.	Requires new, multi-level governance alliances and multiple sector co-ordination (quadruple helix).